BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BC Stats

# Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 08-49 December 5th, 2008

- **Unemployment rate dips below five percent in November**
- **Building permits down 5.2% in October**
- **One in two deaths in 2004 due to cancer or heart disease**

## Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate dipped back below the five percent level, dropping to 4.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November after increasing in the previous two months.** The decline was largely due to a reduction in the province's labour force, which shrank by 4,900 people (-0.2%). Employment was virtually unchanged from October (down by 700 people). Although British Columbia continues to have one of the lowest jobless rates in the country, the province has not seen any job growth since July. Labour force growth has stalled and the participation rate (the percentage of the working age population that is in the labour force) has been falling. It dropped to 66.2% in November.

  Canada's unemployment rate inched up to 6.3% in November. The increase was largely due to a 0.6 percentage point jump in Ontario, where the rate rose to 7.1%. Despite the increase, Canada's unemployment rate remains low by historic levels and working Canadians in all parts of the country except Ontario are much less likely to be unemployed than they were at the beginning of the decade. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Employment in BC's goods industries dropped sharply for a second straight month (-1.3%) in November as the number of jobs in construction plunged (-3.7%).** However, manufacturing employment increased (+1.0%) for the first time since the summer. A 0.3% increase in the number of service sector jobs offset the weakness in the goods industries. Retail and wholesale trade took on more workers (+1.2%), as did the accommodation & food services (+2.7%) industry. Other industries, including finance, insurance & real estate (+2.8%), professional, scientific & technical services (+4.6%) and management & administrative services (+4.6%) posted significant gains. However, employment in transportation & warehousing shrank 10.6%, posting the biggest one-month drop since at least the beginning of the 1980s. Public administration jobs fell off sharply (-4.5%) as temporary workers hired to help with the federal election in October were laid off.

  There were more part-time (+2.9%) but fewer full-time (-0.7%) jobs in November. For the first time since the summer of 2005, the unemployment rate for young people (aged 15-24) was in the double-digits (10.0%). The jobless rate for more experienced workers (aged 25 and over) was 3.9%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Among the regions, the lowest jobless rates were in Mainland/Southwest (4.3%, *3-month moving average*), Vancouver Island/Coast (4.5%) and Northeast (4.5%).** North Coast/Nechako (7.7%) continued to have the highest unemployment rate in the province. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities continued to fall (-5.2%, *seasonally adjusted*) in October.** Permits for non-residential projects remained strong (+32.8%) but planned spending on residential buildings (-26.6%) was down substantially. Permits for institutional & government projects soared (+43.5%), as did those for commercial (+30.8%) and industrial (+21.4%) projects. Abbotsford was the only census metro-

Report

## Labour Market Characteristics of the B.C. Immigrant Population

Did you know...
Nearly half (45%) of British Columbians say they come into more contact with their mobile device than with their significant other. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

politan area in the province to see an increase in the value of building permits, more than doubling (+157.1%) construction intentions in October. Conversely, permits were down substantially in Kelowna (-50.1%) and Victoria (-21.0%), while Vancouver recorded a more moderate decline (-4.5%). Canadian permits fell 15.7%.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Year-to-date, the value of building permits issued in BC was 7.4% lower than in the first ten months of 2007.** Planned spending on construction projects was down in five regions, with declines ranging from 3.5% in Thompson/Okanagan to 20.3% in Nechako. Mainland/Southwest, which accounts for well over half of all building activity in the province, saw permits slip 10.4%. Kootenay (+1.8%), Northeast (+2.6%) and Cariboo (+16.4%) were the only regions to record increases.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

## Business & Finance

- **Businesses in the province owed financial suppliers over $66 billion in 2007, an 11.6% jump over 2006.** Business debt was up in seven provinces, with Alberta posting the most notable increase (+15.3% to $85 billion) over the previous year. With a business debt load of nearly $203 billion, Ontario accounted for approximately 41% of Canada's total business debt outstanding. Commercial financial suppliers reported that the total debt load of Canadian businesses was in excess of $494 billion last year, 11.4% higher than in 2006. Business debt across the country is mainly in the form of loans, mortgages and lines of credit.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## Farming

- **BC's farm population continues to decline, falling to 60,765 in 2006 and accounting for only 1.5% of all British Columbians.** Across the country, the farm population made up just 2.2% of the nation's residents. This is in stark contrast to the reality in 1931 (the year in which the farm population count was first compiled), when 31.7% of Canadians lived on a farm. Among the provinces, the percentage of the farm population that was 65 and older was highest in British Columbia (13.5%). The province's farming population was also the most likely to be comprised of immigrants: 19.8% of BC's farm population were immigrants in 2006.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## Causes of Death

- **Cancer (28%) and heart disease (22%) are the two leading causes of death for British Columbians, responsible for half of all deaths in 2004.** Other common causes of death included stroke (8%), lower respiratory diseases (4%), accidents (4%), diabetes (3%) and Alzheimer's (2%). The picture was similar among other provinces and for both male and female Canadians, although the leading causes of death did vary widely by age group. For example, younger people (aged 15 to 34), were most likely to die as the result of an accident, followed by suicide, while cancer placed third.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## Non-profit institutions and volunteering

- **Economic activity in the nation's non-profit sector recorded solid growth during the late 1990s and early 2000s.** Between 1997 and 2005, GDP for the core non-profit sector increased at an annual average rate of 7.0%, significantly faster than the average for the economy as a whole (+5.8%).

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## The Nation

- **The Canadian economy grew 0.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in the third quarter, improving slightly on the 0.2% increase posted earlier in the year.** However, the GDP growth occurred despite weak domestic demand for goods and services. Final domestic demand (consumer, business and government spending) inched up 0.1% in the third quarter. This was the smallest increase since early 1996. Business investment in fixed capital rose a marginal 0.1% as investment in residential structures, which had been declining, was unchanged from the second quarter. Exports slipped (-1.4%) but with weak domestic demand, imports fell even more (-1.6%) and as a result the trade deficit shrank slightly in the third quarter.

*Data Source: Statistics Canada*

***Infoline** Issue: 08-49*
***December 5th, 2008***

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

Contact: Ray Ghouse
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Originally published in
*Earnings and Employment Trends* Issue 08-10

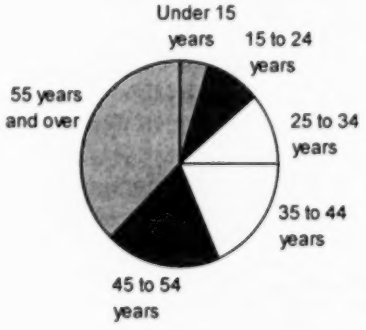
# Labour Market Characteristics of the B.C. Immigrant Population

## The immigrant population in BC

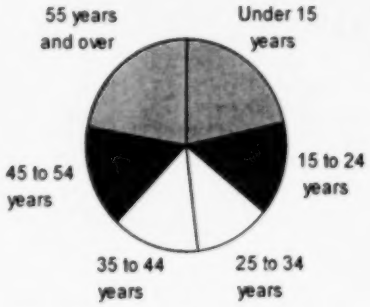
At the time of the 2006 Census over 1.1 million immigrants[1] were living in British Columbia. This represents 27.5% of BC's population or an increase of 1.4% from the 2001 Census figures. BC continues to have the second largest immigration population of all the provinces and territories—only behind Ontario (28.3%) and well above the national average of 19.8%.

In 2006, immigrants over the age of 15 compromised 26.2% of the entire BC population. More immigrants are to be found in the prime working age group (25-54) than non-immigrants (48.6% vs. 41.7%). Additionally, there is a higher proportion of immigrants above the age of 55 (37.8% of total immigrants) and a lower proportion of immigrants under 15 years than for the Canadian-born population.

### Age of BC's immigrant population




### Age of BC's Canadian-born population




*Source: Census 2006, Statistics Canada*

## Immigrant employment rates

Since January 2006, Statistics Canada has been collecting data through the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) on the labour market status of immigrants in Canada. In general, immigrants tend to have lower employment rates[2] in full- and part-time jobs compared to individuals born in Canada. The full-time employment gap between the Canadian-born and foreign-born population (age 15 plus) is small with a difference of 7%. Recent immigrants who landed between five and ten years ago had the highest employment rates of all landed immigrants in 2007 and 2006 which may be due to the higher number of individuals in the working age bracket (25-54 years) when compared with established immigrants (more than ten years in Canada) where more than half were above 55 years old.

[1] Immigrant population refers to people who were foreign born and have been permitted by immigration authorities to live in Canada permanently.

[2] The employment rate (or the employment population ratio) is the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population.

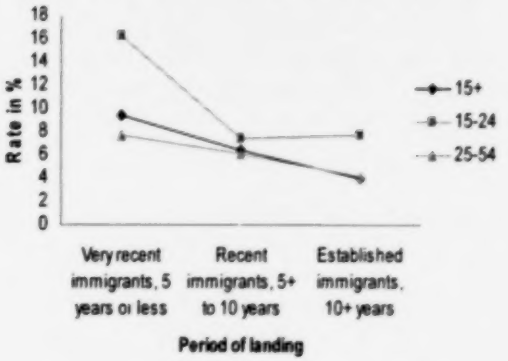
**Employment rates of immigrants by period of landing and Canadian-born in percent, population aged 15+, BC, 2007**

| | Full-time | Part-time |
|---|---|---|
| Total population | 50.6 | 12.8 |
| Total landed immigrants | 45.9 | 9.8 |
| Very recent immigrants, 5 years or less | 46. 7 | 10.9 |
| Recent immigrants, 5+ to 10 years | 50. 3 | 12. 9 |
| Established immigrants, 10+ years | 44.9 | 9.1 |
| Non-landed immigrants | 43.3 | 9.9 |
| Born in Canada | 52.9 | 14.2 |

*Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada*

Unemployment rates[3] for immigrants appear to be strongly correlated by period of landing. The unemployment rate is declining for most age groups as the period of landing increases. The sharpest decreases are to be found for immigrants in the prime working age (25-54). Young immigrants (15-24) had a somewhat higher unemployment rate, indicating that education may be another factor influencing the employability of immigrants. While Canadian-born individuals of all age groups have lower unemployment rates, the difference with the corresponding immigrant population is small. Similarly, the employability of immigrants increases with the number of years in Canada, and is starkest for immigrants aged 25-54. Established immigrants from that age category living more than ten years in Canada also have the smallest employability gap compared to the rest of the population of the same age (81.7% vs. 84.2%, respectively).

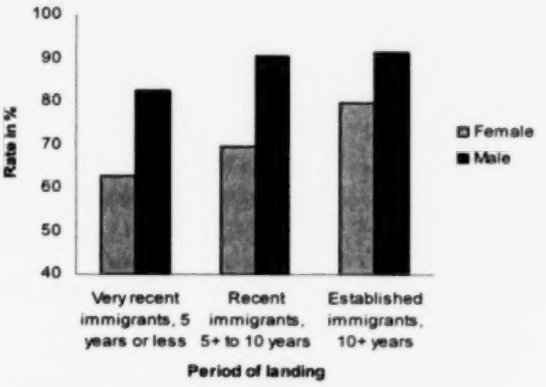
**Unemployment rates by age group, 2007**




*Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada*

The labour force participation rates and unemployment rates for the immigrant population reveal a gender disparity. Specifically, female immigrants tend to have lower participation rates than male immigrants, independent of period of landing (74.8% for females and 89.7% for males aged 25-54). Canadian born women also tend to have lower participation rates than men; however the difference is not as pronounced—82.3% for women and 91.4% for men.

**Participation rates by gender (25-54 years of age), 2007**



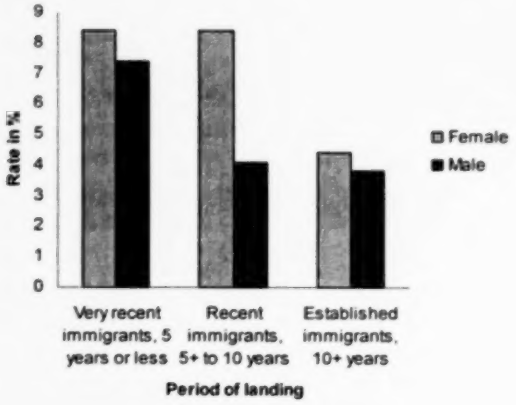

*Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada*

The participation rates were similar in 2006 for male and female and immigrants and non-immigrants.

[3] The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

The unemployment rates for non-immigrant women were 3.1% in 2007 and 3% for men. Interestingly, Canadian-born females experienced a decline in the unemployment rate in the period 2006-7 from 4% to 3.1%, while established immigrant women had an increased unemployment rate (3.8% in 2006 and 4.4% in 2007). The unemployment rate (3.8%) for established male immigrants remained unchanged between 2006 and 2007.

**Unemployment rates by gender (25-54 years of age), 2007**

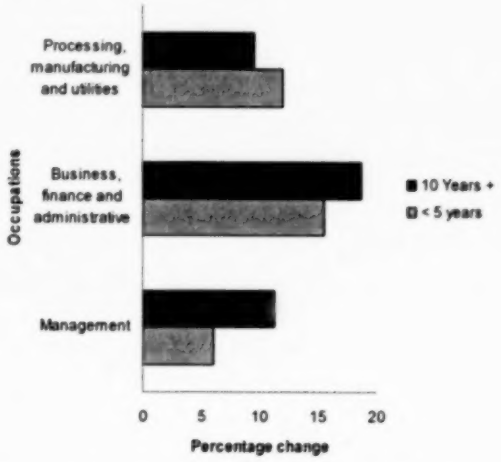



*Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada*

**Occupational mix of immigrants**

The distribution of BC's immigrant population across occupational industries mirrors that of the Canadian-born population. In particular, the majority of individuals for both groups are employed in the services sector, with the business and administration, finance in second place, and the trade and transport sectors having third highest number of employees. Differences between 2006 and 2007 were minimal. It is interesting to note that the labour distribution across occupations differs slightly depending on the period of landing. While services and manufacturing industries dominate as the most likely job destinations for very recent immigrants (five or less years in Canada), their relative importance declines, with other professions more prevalent for established immigrants.

**Selected occupation rates for immigrants (25-54 years of age), 2007**




*Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada*

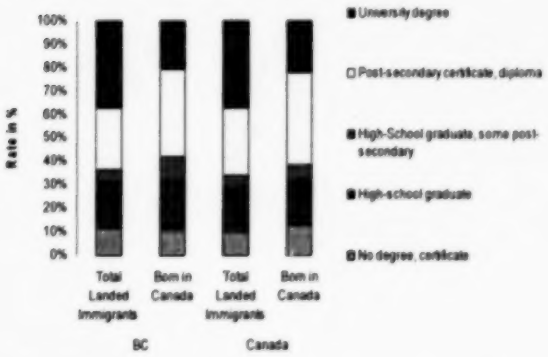
Canadian-born individuals are almost half-as-likely to work in the manufacturing sector than established immigrants, but are almost as likely to be found in management occupations (10.1% vs. 11.2%).

**Education levels and employability**

According the Labour Force Survey the majority of immigrants residing in BC as of 2007 held a university degree.

The educational make-up of BC's population (immigrant and otherwise) is fairly similar to Canada's population.

**Education attainment of immigrants and Canadian-born (25-54 years of age), 2007**




*Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada*

The chart above suggests that immigrants tend to have a higher level of education attainment than the Canadian-born population (university graduates: 37.3% vs. 20.7%). While significantly less than the proportion of immigrants with university degrees, still 26.1% of total landed immigrants hold a post-secondary certificate. The proportional make-up of educational levels for immigrants corresponds to the occupations immigrants are most likely to be found in. Furthermore, BC has a slightly higher proportion of immigrants with no degree, certificate in comparison to the segment of the population born in Canada. For Canada as a whole the relationship is reversed, with proportionally more individuals born in Canada possessing no degree or certificate.

Regardless of education attainment the full-time employment rates increase for established immigrants. Interestingly, recent immigrants and established immigrants with no certificates appear to perform better on the job market than the Canadian-born counterparts. Immigrants with university degrees also appear to have higher full-time employment prospects than the remaining population.

**Employment rates of immigrants by period of landing and Canadian-born with university degree in percent, population aged 25-54, BC, 2007**

| | Full-time | Part-time |
|---|---|---|
| Very recent immigrants, 5 years or less | 56.1 | 9.3 |
| Recent immigrants, 5+ to 10 years | 67.1 | 10.9 |
| Established immigrants, 10+ years | 77.4 | 10.6 |
| Born in Canada | 75.7 | 14.0 |

*Source: Labour Force Survey 2007, Statistics Canada*

Independent of the education level and period of landing, immigrants have higher unemployment rates than the rest of the population. The unemployment rate approaches that of the general population the longer immigrants have spent in Canada. For instance, established immi-grants with no post-secondary education have an unemployment rate of 7.7%, which is 1.1 percentage points higher than for the non-immigrant population. Higher education for immigrants leads to better employment prospects when controlling for the period of landing. For established immigrants the decrease in the unemployment rate and the increase in employability as the level of education increases are steeper than for the Canadian-born population.

**Summary**

In general, immigrants to British Columbia lag behind in employment prospects when compared to the Canadian-born population. The gap is shortened by the number of years spent in Canada and is virtually non-existent for highly educated established immigrants. Most immigrants are to be found in occupations similar to the rest of the population.

## REGISTRATION FORM:

This information will appear on your ID badge, please print clearly.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

**Method of Payment:**

Cheque_____

*(Payable to the Receiver General of Canada)*

Visa_____ M/C_____ Amex_____

Amount $ (including GST): _____

Cardholder: _____

Card No: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Signature: _____

**For Federal Government Employees:**

Department No.: _____

IS Organization code: _____

IS Reference No.: _____

FT

**FEES:**

**Early Bird Rate: $199 per person**
+ 5% GST ($9.95) = $208.95
(for registrations received by Monday February 2, 2009)

**Regular Rate: $249 per person**
+ 5% GST ($12.45) = $261.45

Registration fees include continental breakfast, a lunch buffet, and refreshments.

Cancellation policy: Substitutes are permitted; however, no refunds will be given for cancellations.

Please send your completed registration form by one of the following ways:

**FAX:** in Vancouver 604-666-6680
or toll free to 1-877-287-4369

**EMAIL:**
registrar@diversitymattersconference.ca

**MAIL:** Registrar,
Statistics Canada,
Suite 600, 300 West Georgia Street,
Vancouver, BC, V6B 6C7

**PHONE:** in Vancouver 604-666-1851
or toll free to 1-888-799-0050

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**Statistics Canada's Strategic Conference Series presents:**

# Diversity Matters

*A one-day conference bringing you the latest statistical information on immigration and diversity for Canada, British Columbia, and Metro Vancouver*

**DATE & VENUE:**

Monday February 23, 2009
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sheraton Wall Centre,
1088 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC

**www.diversitymattersconference.ca**

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

# Diversity Matters

Statistics Canada and our conference partners* would like to welcome you to **Diversity Matters**, a one-day conference featuring a panel of experts who will present on the changes, trends and implications of ethno-cultural diversity and immigration at the national, provincial and regional levels.

The conference also includes panel discussions, Q & As, information booths and demonstrations on how to access the wealth of free information available on Statistics Canada's website: www.statcan.gc.ca.

** Conference partners include BC Stats, WelcomeBC, the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program and Multiculturalism Program.*

**Why is the conference important?**

Good statistics are the foundation of a well-functioning country. They allow businesses, non-profit organizations as well as individual Canadians to make informed decisions, and government of all levels to develop appropriate policies.

Our panel of experts will draw from a wide array of data sources to bring you up-to-date on important information such as:

- 2006 Census highlights on immigration, language, ethnic origin and visible minorities
- Profiles of main ethnic communities
- The changing diversity composition of the population across sub-provincial regions within BC
- Implications of diversity and future projections
- Social, economic and labour market integration of immigrants
- Attracting immigrants to smaller centres

**CONFERENCE PARTNERS:**

BC Stats
Welcome BC

## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS:

***Keynote Speaker:***

**The Honourable Wally Oppal,**
B.C. Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism

***Presenters:***

**Anil Arora**, Assistant Chief Statistician, Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field, Statistics Canada

**Tina Chui**, Chief, Ethnocultural and Immigration Section, Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division, Statistics Canada

**David O'Neil**, Director, Population Statistics, BC Stats

**Andrew Ramlo**, Director, Urban Futures

**Professor Dan Hiebert**, Co-Director, Metropolis BC, Center of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Diversity

**Jean McRae**, Executive Director, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria

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Canada

Infoline

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Issue 08–49

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

# BC at a glance . . .

| POPULATION (thousands) | Jul 1/08 | % change on one year ago |
|---|---|---|
| BC | 4,381.6 | 1.7 |
| Canada | 33,311.4 | 1.2 |
| **GDP and INCOME (Revised Nov 6)** | | |
| *(BC - at market prices)* | 2007 | % change on one year ago |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)* | 192,528 | 5.4 |
| GDP *($ 2002 millions)* | 164,583 | 3.0 |
| GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)* | 38,184 | 1.4 |
| Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)* | 25,282 | 3.1 |
| **TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)** | | % change on prev. month |
| Manufacturing Shipments - Sep | 3,412 | 2.3 |
| Merchandise Exports - Sep | 2,882 | -0.7 |
| Retail Sales - Sep | 4,814 | 1.0 |
| **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX** | % change on one year ago | 12-month avg % change |
| *(all items - Oct 2008)* | | |
| BC | 2.5 | 2.1 |
| Vancouver | 2.7 | 2.3 |
| Victoria | 2.6 | 1.7 |
| Canada | 2.6 | 2.5 |
| **LABOUR FORCE (thousands)** | | % change on |
| *(seasonally adjusted)* | Nov '08 | prev. month |
| Labour Force - BC | 2,429 | -0.2 |
| Employed - BC | 2,310 | 0.0 |
| Unemployed - BC | 119 | -3.3 |
| | | Oct '08 |
| Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)* | 4.9 | 5.1 |
| Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)* | 6.3 | 6.2 |
| **INTEREST RATES (percent)** | Dec 3/08 | Dec 5/07 |
| Prime Business Rate | 4.00 | 6.00 |
| Conventional Mortgages - 1 year | 5.60 | 7.20 |
| - 5 year | 6.95 | 7.39 |
| **US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE** | Dec 3/08 | Dec 5/07 |
| *(avg. noon spot rate)* Cdn $ per US $ | 1.2573 | 1.0131 |
| *(closing rate)* US $ per Cdn $ | 0.7978 | 0.9849 |
| **AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE** | | % change on |
| *(industrial aggregate - dollars)* | Nov '08 | one year ago |
| BC | 789.82 | 4.8 |
| Canada | 797.73 | 4.4 |

**SOURCES:**

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

## Data and Health Mapping Browser

A new thematic mapping tool on our site will display a wide selection of BC Stats' data holdings. For a fee, BC Stats can create similar mapping tools for your organization using your own data for display on our site.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/maps/browsers.asp

## 2008 Small Business Profile

The 2008 edition of the Small Business Profile is now available. This report offers information on small business in British Columbia, including counts of establishments, employment, revenue, GDP and exports.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/sm_bus.asp#sbp

## 2008 High Technology Input Indicators

The 2008 edition of the Input Indicators of the British Columbia High Technology Sector is now available. This report looks at the inputs to high tech and can be considered a companion report to the Profile of the BC High Technology sector, which examines the sector's outputs.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

**Released this week by BC Stats**

- Tourism Sector Monitor, November 2008
- Labour Force Statistics, November 2008
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Nov. 2008

**Next week**

- Consumer Price Index, November 2008

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